

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM announces EIS for Tucker Hill Mine expansion

LAKEVIEW, Ore. — The Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area is initiating the EIS process to analyze the potential environmental impacts of expanding an existing perlite mining operation in Lake County, Oregon.

Cornerstone, Inc. has prepared an amendment to its existing Plan of Operation and is proposing to expand its existing 70-acre quarry by up to an additional 340 acres on Tucker Hill, located approximately 35 northwest of the town of Lakeview, Oregon. The ore would continue to be hauled from Tucker Hill to Lakeview where it would be processed at an existing facility and transported to market via rail or truck.

Preliminary issues identified include potential impacts to soils, vegetation, noxious weeds, traditional Native American uses, archaeological sites, wildlife habitat, visual quality, and socio-economics. Those individuals, organizations, tribal governments, and agencies with a known interest in the proposal have been sent a scoping letter requesting comments. At this time there is no formal scoping meeting planned, though one could be scheduled if there is sufficient interest.

The 30-day scoping process began January 21, 2015, with publication of a notice of intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register. Interested parties are encouraged to review the proposal and **provide written comments** by February 19, 2015, to: Todd Forbes, Field Manager, Lakeview Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management, 1301 South G Street, Lakeview, Oregon 97630. Electronic comments may be submitted to Phil D'Amo at pdamo@blm.gov

A range of alternatives would be developed to address any issues identified during public scoping. Mitigating measures will be considered to minimize environmental impacts and to assure the proposed action does not result in unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.

For further information, please contact Phil D'Amo, Geologist, at the address above or by telephone at (541) 947-6114.

About the BLM: The BLM manages 245 million acres of public land known as the National System of Public Lands. The lands are primarily located in 12 Western states, including 75 million acres in Alaska. With a budget of about \$1 billion, the bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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